## JOHN H. SURRATT.

A MORNING WITH HIS COLLEGE CHUM.

From the New York Tribune. PHINADELPHIA, May 18.—Convalescent after a chronic attack of Centrifugalism, that rheumatism of the bones that compels one to go somewhere, for the sake of the go rather than of the somewhere, I had got back the other day, fat and scant of breath, and was regaling myself with a walk on Chesnut street. Suddenly I passed a round-bellied young man with eye-glasses over his nose. It was plain to me that I had gone to school with him, though who he was I was indifferent about remembering. During my pupilage at the Philadelphia High School about 1600 youths had entered and departed from it; and while, apart from my own class, I knew not a dozen of them by name, I had hardly forgot a single face. So I swung my hat promptly:-

"Good day, sir! Glad to meet you again." The other hat came off in response, and l walked a full black, forgetting, meantime, all about the person, when I heard a quick foot behind me, felt a tap on the arm, and the eyeglasses had got around to my front again.

"I beg pardon," said the young man, "but you went to the High School. Your name is? Exactly! I have long wanted to see you. You know Weichmann?"

"Certainly ! that is, not altogether."

"Lewis Weichmann ?" "Lewis ?"

"The boarder at Mrs. Surratt's." I felt newsy and centrifugal at once again, and drew him to one side. In three minutes I had him promised to come to my house the

next morning. Out of his face and voice and the new interest in him, I summoned, meantime, the whole memory of the man again. He had been in the next class behind me, and his round, chubby, red-tipped cheeks reappeared as when he climbed into his bench in the lecture-room, and hummed, with the rest of the boys, disapproval of some dry, volumineus orator, or peeped at his lesson and got "noted" for it during the reading of the morning Scripture. An ordinary fat boy I considered him, whose definition of school was a place to get fun out of; and he was of mixed religious origin, his father being Protestant and his mother Roman Catholic. He went to the High School three years, and left it

Next morning after meeting him was Sunday, and into my room the junior schoolmate was ushered at 10 o'clock. When he put by his hat, gloves, and cane, I saw him grown up to be a young fellow of twenty-four, brown hair, with dimples and tints all over him, a moustache that will never come to much, a nose with a good deal of bridge to it, clear light eyes that do not strain by their near-sightedness, and that bodily prematurity which makes him "waddle" somewhat in gait and was expressed by Surratt in the nick-name of "Fatty."

His address was singularly intelligent and pleasant, and he has more than average independence of opinion. I compared him, for the first few minutes, to Snodgrass, the junior boarder at Mrs. Cunningham's when Dr. Burdell was boarded—the young fellow who waltzed with Augusta and played the banjo in his cell, sublimely indifferent to the great tragedy he lived so close to; in half an hour I found that Weichmann was altogether a graver man, sobered, practicalized, even religiously affected by the part he had unwittingly played in the direct conspiracy of our times.

"I believe, sir," he exclaimed, in the pitch of the narrative, "that I was providentially thrown in the way of those people-that I was an instrument prepared to convict them. Look! it was I that introduced St. Maurie to John Surratt two years before the assassination; how did I know that one was to be the who should chase the other round world and bring him home! Look again! on Good Friday an order came from Mr. Stanton to the department in which I was clerk, giving only the Catholic employes holiday for the afternoon. But for that holiday I should never have driven Mrs. Surratt out to Surrattsville four hours before the murder, and it was that drive that hanged her."

I asked him to go back to the beginning of himself, and tell me all that had not been evidence on the trial-whatever inferential, and domestic, and characteristic had marked his acquaintance with the Surratts; for I had been collecting data upon the great crime, and had been present in all its scenes, fresh after their commemorations; the theatre, the Surratt House, the Maryland swamps, the route of Booth escaping, the barn where he died, the scaffold. I admonished Weichmann that as John Surratt was shortly to be tried, I might print this conversation, and here I set it down in running order, and it makes, unless I am over-sanguine, the straightest story of the conspiracy against the Government's preservers yet related:-

WEIGHMANN'S NARRATIVE.

In 1859, he began, I left the High School where you had known me, and in February of the same year I entered St. Charles' College at Ellicott's Mills, near Baltimore. A considerable number of students were present, and the Principal was the Rev. Father Jenkins. About six months after my admission Surratt came there to study for the diocese of Florida. He attracted no attention, either by his talents or prowess, being one of the most sober and obedient scholars, and winning the commendation of all the professors by his tractable bearing. He was then a fresh-faced fellow of sixteen, straight and thin, with a good, broad forehead, and deeply sunken eyes. We were not allowed to sleep with one another, the monastic system being enforced, and, although I talked often with Surratt, I recall nothing now that showed him to have any depth of character, nor pointed ever so remotely to this erime.

When the war broke out the whole school was, with few exceptions, favorable to the success of the Rebellion. The teachers seemed to have little enthusiasm for the liberty of opinion, the secular education, and the republican civilization of the North, and most of the students either came from slave States, or meditated ministering in them. We were kept ignorant of Union victories; the newspapers were prohibited; and when I emerged l bund myself as misinformed as if I had been in jail. Surraft, with the rest, sang secession songs very frequently, and he left school the same day that I did, in July, 1862. He had previously satisfied himself that the priesthood was not his vocation, and at leaving

was so much affected that he wept. The President held his hands over him, and said:- "John, you have been a good boy. Do not feel disappointed. You will always be remembered here." Indeed, Surratt belonged to a Students' Society, called the Society of the Angels, very pions in its nature, and I was altogether too wild to be admitted to it. Surratt had often spoken to me of his home in Maryland, and some months after I left the school he wrote me a letter, inviting me to visit him. Meantime I accepted a tutorship at Borromeo College, Maryland, and, after four months, went to visit a friend at Ellangowan, familiarly called Little Texas, a small limekiln town on the Northern Central Railway, and I nobody ever fathemed his plot. In Mrs. Sur- | \$25 stuthing

here I helped him teach a small Catholic school for a few weeks. In the meantime Surratt, between whom and myself several letters had passed, wrote to me to ask for a teacher's position in Borromeo College; his father had died, and his family were involved. I failed to get him an appointment; but when, soon afterward, I changed to teach in St. Matthew's College, Washington City, Surratt called upon me, and we personally renewed our acquaint-He spoke enthusiastically of his home, and invited me down to see it whenever l chose. I observed that he was still a persistent Rebel, but I had seen so many of his class in Washington, that I took no personal offense at what he said, having already made

myself obnoxious by political arguments.

Meantime the life of the country tayern, and the entire change in his ambitions, had given Surratt a brusquer and more worldly manner. He talked variously of teaching, farming, or entering the Rebel service. His mind was unsettled. I saw him several times at school and in town,

It was on a Friday afternoon in March. rainy and dreary, when at last I went down to Surrattsville with John. He came for me in a buggy, and the road was so rutty and miry that we were four hours on the way. On coming in sight of the house I was miserably disappointed. The theme of so much panegyric was a solitary frame tavern at a crossroad, a few sheds and barns around it and a hitching stall, and a peach orchard reaching behind. The farm consisted of 300 acres, and it was afterwards let, with the tavern, for \$600 a year.

A small porch stood in the middle, on which opened a hall reaching quite through the house. At the foot of this hall, to the left, was the bar-room and Post Office, with a door opening upon one of the cross-roads, and to the right were the parlor and dining room. Altogether there were eight rooms comfortably furnished. Mrs. Surratt received me pleasantly, and we had a good warm supper, after which I went awhile to the bar-room, where there were some of the Rebel farmers of the neighborhood, come to get their letters, to lounge, and to play cards. John kept the bar, and we had a game with two Jewish persons who had carpetbags with them. These carpet-bags Mrs. Sur-ratt came in and removed. Their owners left before daylight next morning, and one of them named Jacobs was arrested crossing the Potomae with \$50,000 upon him.

Mrs. Surratt was proud, and counted her beads a great deal. She was a convert, and not an original Catholic, and her husband was a Protestant till his death, which happened of apoplexy in August, 1862. There were three or four negroes about the place; it was a dull, cross-roads' existence, but pleasant for a day or two to a stranger. Next morning, at daylight, we were awakened by very beautiful music. It was a brass band, come out from the Washington Navy Yard, to serenade the Democratic county officers just elected. Among the hangers-on was a seedy, frowsy, monkey-faced boy, whom Surratt introduced to me as Mr. Herold. He came in with the rest, took a drink, and went further up the road with them. I left the house on Monday, pleased with my visit, and we stopped at a drug store by the Navy Yard, Surratt and I, to get a cigar. The boy, Herold, was clerk there. Surratt told me on the way that his brother, Isaac Surratt, an engineer, had left his home on the 7th of March, 1861, at the news of Lincoln's inauguration, and gone to Texas, where he had been ever since in the Confederate service.

I got to consider Surratt an intimate friend after this visit, and he had good points of character; but his isolated life in the country kept me from knowing of more than the directer concerns of our friendship; while meantime the war went on more bitterly, and his home was probably a convenient and constant resort of secret spies and traders. But in Easter, 1863, we agreed to visit an old school friend at Ellicott's Mills, and from there I took Surratt to Ellangowan to see my friend the school teacher. Before we started a priest asked me to deliver a newspaper to Mr. St. Maurie, whom I found to be my friend's assistant, and to whom I introduced John Surratt. He was a French Canadian, black-eyed and black-haired, aged about thirty, very fascinating in his manners and accomplishments, a linguist and adventurer. He was teaching for his board and spending money only, being entirely needy, and he amused himself by giving concerts in the village, where he was in love with a virtuous and beautiful young lady.

When I left Ellangowan St. Maurie asked me to get him a teacher's place in Washington, and seen after he came to my room there, say ing that he had left his place, disgusted with its littleness, and was without a meal, a bed. or a penny. I got him a position in Gonzaga College, and when he came to see me once or twice I found him so unprincipled that I wrote to the lady he addressed at Ellangowan, bid ing her beware. He would tell me in a breath that he had fied from Canada to avoid the consequences of a most heartless seduction, and at the same time put his new sweetheart's bouquet under his pillow. His stories of him-self were that he had been a member of the Canadian Parliament, a Federal prisoner of state, etc. But, at any rate, he decamped from the College after a month, leaving me to pay his board, and enlisted for the bounty in Delaware regiment, deserted, fell into Castle Thunder as an object of general suspicion, was released by reason of playing informer upon his comrades, escaped by a blockade-runner to England, returned to Canada, and hearing of the \$25,000 reward for Surratt, pursued him to Rome, enlisted with him and gave him up just too late for the reward which had been already withdrawn.

I was now weary of teaching for insufficient pay, and sought a Government clerkship which I obtained in the office of the Commis sary of Prisons in January, 1864. In September of the same year the Surratts moved to Washington to keep-a boarding-house and get John something to do, and to help them along I moved in almost immediately. John was engaged by Adams Express Company, and with the exception of the arrival of blockade-runner or two, little happened until a few days before Christmas of 1864-5, when by another of those providences or coin cidences to which I have referred, I was walking in the street with Surratt when John Wilkes Booth was introduced to him by their

common friend, Dr. Mudd. After this the manner and nature of Surratt changed. He became, grade by grade, a lolterer and a spendthrift, subject at times to fits of despendence; and I have no doubt that Booth was his absolute master, debauching him with his horses and loans of money, and by his stronger worldliness and magnetism controlling him altogether. I used to wonder what affinity such unlike men could have; but bitter as the secessionists of Washington were, no idea of conspiracy, particularly agains personages so high, ever occurred to me. And it was only in the head of a monomaniae actor, used to rehearse Brutus, that so desperate a crime could have been conceived; his means were just considerable enough to purchase such poor instruments as John Surratt; and his own character was so impracticable that

ratt's house he was altogether the most talented visitor. The mistress of it called him 'Her Pet," in his absence

During all these days the plot was ripening dirty fellows like Atzerott, boys like Herold and searching eyed, mysterious persons like Payne, began to visit the house. I felt that in my friendship with John, never very well founded, I was supplanted. John Surratt began to be a bird of passage, riding to and fro from Montreal to Richmond. I was only puzzled by these things, but never alarmed, and set him down as a mere "sponger" or parasite upon Booth, who was never free with me, and on whom I looked as a man of accomplishments and genius that liked the company of his inferiors. In all this there were interludes of drunkenness, as when three or four of the subsequent assassins burst into my room, saying that they were ruined men and that all was lost. This was afterwards demonstrated to be Booth's failure to capture the President at the Soldier's Home.

And this brings me to the crisis of the narrative; the interest of the house was gone, its peacefulness and charm. I was thinking to myself on Good Friday, as I returned from my office to Mrs. Surratt's, released for a holiday on account of my religious belief, that perhaps I had better seek board otherwheres. At that moment, as if some providence had satisfied me with these aimless companionships so long that I might observe their complicity and con-vict them, if not defeat them, Mrs. Surratt asked me to spend the afternoon in taking her to drive. As we started out, I saw Booth in the parlor, leaning on the mantel, paler than usual I have since seemed to recollect, his hand to his moustache, his eyes upon the floor. We talked pleasantly on the way, and once Mrs. Surratt stopped to ask about the pickets in the fields, and when they were to

be removed at nightfall. She died for that ride. I, who had made her son's acquaintance so unwittingly, and slept under her roof so long without unkindgiven or received, do not shrink to say I have never been sorry that I accompanied her. And when she died I felt saddened but not self-accusing; for if there is a doubt that she was a principal in the murder, there is no doubt, to my mind, that she knew enough to prevent it, to save the President, the Secretary of State, Booth, and the tools of Booth, and, perhaps, her own son.

That night I was weary, and read myself to sleep. At 3 o'clock in the morning, called from my bed by loud hands upon the door, I heard the challenge of "Officers of the Government. Open at once."

"What is it all for, gentlemen?" I said. "The President and the Secretary of State are dead! We want Booth and Surratt to surrender, if they are here."

I do not remember what I exclaimed; the officers say it was: "My God! I see it all." Then at daylight I hastened to read the particulars-"A tall man in a white coat stabbed Mr. Seward''—that must be Payne!

I hurried to the police station at once Directly I was off with the detectives on the road to Surrattsville again. We caught a horse. "To whom did you hire it?" we say to the livery man. "To a monkey-faced chap named Erail, I think." That must be Herold. Away we go to the widow Herold's. David has been away quite two days. "Let us see your album." His picture is secured. I knew where Surratt had photographs taken; we obtain a dozen copies. Then I am carried before Mr. Stanton. He looks at me savagely for having been one of his clerks and keep-ing such company. I am ordered to Old Capitol Hill. From the jail-yard I see Mrs. Surratt at the window. She kisses her hand. A man comes to me with a message on her behalf:—"You are to say nothing of anybody of the female gender when asked." It is too late, if I could have had such a wish. The past is too vividly illumined by this fresh crime to be forgotten. This is the story of a school friendship and boarding-house acquaintanceship.

He closed and shook my hand. I

wondered if there were boys in other generations with the experience of this boy in ours.

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FOR WILLIAMER, SIL LORS, CAPIAN J. Bonnett, will leave for the above port on Saunday, June
1, at 8 o'clock A. M., from the first whart below
Pine street,
Bills o lading signed at through and reduced rates
to all principal points in North Carolina,
Agents at William L. JAMES, General Agent,
WILLIAM L. JAMES, General Agent,
No. 314 S. Delaware avenue.

HAVANA STEAMERS. CARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAIL,

OPPOSITION TO MONO-POLY. DAILY LINE FOR BALVII-MORE, via Chesapeake and Delawate Canal.

Philadelphia and Baltimore Union Steamboat Company, daily at 2 o'clock P. M.

The Steamers of this line are now plying regularly between this port and Baltimore, leaving the second wharf below Arch street daily at 2 o'clock P. M. (Sundays excepted).

Carying all description of Freight as low as any other line. other line.

Freight handled with great care, delivered promptly, and forwarded to all points beyond the terminus free of commission.

Particular attention paid to the transportation of all description of Merchandise, Horses, Carriages, all calls all carries and carriages.

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For further information, apply to

JOHN D. RUOFF, Agent,

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No. 18 N. DELAWARE Avenue. THE STEAMSHIP ETNA and from Pler No. 45, North River, at Noon, on WEDNESDAY, May 18, for Liverpool, calling as

Queenstown,
Rates of Passage-First Cabin, \$110; Steerage, \$35Currency, JOHN G. DALE, Agent,
5 29 8t No. 411 CHESNUT Street, Philis, STEAM TO LIVERPOOL-CALLING

PASSAGE TO AND FROM
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND!
BY STEAMSAIP AND SAILING PACKET, DRAFTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT ENGLANDISCHARMAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES.

For particulars apply to

No. 36 SOUTH Street, and No. 12 BROADWAY.

OF 10 THOS. R. SEARLE, 217 WALBUT SE

FOR NEW YORK, -SWIFTSURE Transportation Company Despatch and Swiftsure Lines, via Delaware and Raritan Canal, on and after the 16th of March, leaving daily at 12 M. and 5 P. M., connecting with all Northern and Eastern lines.

For freight, which will be taken upon accommodating terms, apply to

WILLIAM M. BAIRD & OS.,

111 No. 132 S. DELAWARE Avenue.

TO SHIP CAPTAINS AND OWNERS. TO SHIP CAPTAINS AND OWNERS.

The undersigned having sessed the KENThe undersigned having sessed facilities to secommodate those having vessels to be raised or repaired, and being a practical
ship-carpenter and caulker, will give personal attention to the vessels entrusted to him for repairs.

Captainsor Agents, Ship-Carpenters, and Machinists
having vessels to repair, are solicited to call.

Having the agency for the sale of "Wetterstedt's
Patent Metallic Composition" for Copper paint, for
the preservation of vessels bottoms, for this city, I am
prepared to furnish the same on reasonable terms.

JOHN H. HAM MITT,

Kensington Screw Dock,

11 DELAWARE Avenne, above Laurel street.

LUMBER. 1867. - SELECT WHITE PINE BOARDS-AND PLANE.

CHOICE PANEL AND IS COMMON, 16 eet loug,

WHITE PINE, PANEL PATTERN PLANE,
LARGE AND SUPERIOR STOCK ON HAND, 16

1867. BUILDING:
LUMBER: LUMBER: LUMBER:
44 CAROLINA FLOORING.
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68 FLOORING.
69 WALNUT FLOORING.
69 PRUCE FLOORING.
69 PRUCE FLOORING.
69 RULL FLOORING.
60 REFER BOJ 2008.
61 PLANE.
61 PLANE.
61 PLANE.

-CEDAR AND CYPRES 1867. CEDAR AND CYPRE
SHINGLES,
LONG CEDAR SHINGLES,
SHORT CEDAR SHINGLES,
COOPER SHINGLES,
FINE ASSORTMENT FOR SALE LOW,
No. 1 CEDAR LOGS AND POSTS.

1867. LUMBER FOR UNDERTAKERS RED GEDAR, WALNUT, AND PINE 1867.—ALBANY LUMBER OF ALL KINDS SEASONED WALNUT.
DRY POPLAR, CHERRY, AND ASH.
OAK PLANK AND BOARDS.
ROSEWOOD, AND WALNUT VENERRS.

1867. CIGAR-BOX MANUFACTURERS SPANISH CEDAR BOX BOARDS,

1867. SPRUCE JOIST: SPRUCE JOIS SPRUCE JOIST FROM 14 TO SPREET LONG.
SUPERIOR NORWAY SCANTLING.
MAULE, BROTHER & CO.,
No. 250 SOUTHASTREET.

PERKINS LUMBER MERCHANT. Successor to B Clark, Jr.,

KO. 324 CHRISTIAN STREET.

Constantly on hand a large and varied assortment of Euliding Lumber,

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COPARTNERSHIPS.

COPARTNERSHIP .- E. B. EDWARDS (OF COPARTNERSHIP,—F. B. EDWARDS (OF the late firm of blitchell & Edwards) has this day associated with him his son, THOMSON F. EDWARDS, for the transaction of a General Limber Pusiness, under the firm name of E. B. EDWARDS & CO., DELAWARE Avenue, first wharf below Noble street.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1, 1867.

\$2 Impp \$21mrp